deficit has been formulated in such a manner that it does not affect subsidies directed towards the poor.

Irregularities in the Branches of State Bank of Indore

2359. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether several cases of irregularities have been detected in the transactions of the State Bank of Indore branches at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kota, Jaipur and Indore since April, 1988;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether facilities have been granted to the firms/companies through letters of credit and discounted bogus bills etc.;

(d) if so, the details of the recovery of amount advanced against such loan during April, 1988 to June 30, 1991; and

(e) the action taken by the Bank against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that they do not maintain branch-wise details of irregularities in banks. However, RBI has noticed in December, 1989 certain irregularities committed by an officer in the Palsikar Colony branch, Cloth Market branch and P.Y. Road branches of State Bank of Indore at Indore. State Bank of Indore has also reported to RBI in June, 1991 irregularities in one of the group accounts at the bank's Tilak Road, Ahmedabad branch.

(d) State Bank of Indore has informed RBI that out of 85 sticky accounts in Palsikar Colony branch, suits have been filed against 74 borrowers. Out of 74 suits filed, decrees have been awarded in 36 cases. In the case of Tilak Road, Ahmedabad branch bank has closely followed up the matter for repayment of dues.

(e) The officer of Indore (Palsika Colony) branch was fined by Custom Department for backdating letters of credit. Bank has initiated disciplinary action against the concerned officer. In the case of Tilak Road branch at Ahmedabad the bank has taken measure to initiate appropriate action against the concerned officers.

64 Orissa

Mechanisation of Coal Handling at Paradeep Port

2360. SHRI ANBARASU ERA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for introduction of mechanisation of coal handling facilities at Paradeep Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approved the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JADGISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal envisages construction of 2 mechanised coal berths and ancillary facilities at Paradeep Port.

(c) and (d) The proposal requires investment decision by the Government and the same is under process.

64 Government Service

Promotion to Employees stagnating at Maximum of Pay Scales

2361. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give at least one promotion to those employees who are stagnating at the maximum of their pay scales for the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the categories of employees which are likely to be benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Payment of Interest by DLF

2362. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2295 on March 27, 1990 regarding collection by DLF Limited for sale of plots and state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restricted Trades Practices Commission has completed the inquiry against the DLF Universal Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DLF has paid interest on the application money it held for a number of months to all unsuccessful applicants; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) : M/s DLF Universal Limited has contended that under the terms and conditions of the scheme, it was not required to pay interest to unsuccessful applicants. The applicants also agreed in writing to the refund of registration money without any interest in the event of their being declared unsuccessful at the draw of lots. Accordingly, it did not pay any interest to them.

Export of Farm Products

2363. SHRI V. SOBHANADRESWARA RAOVADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the export of farm products by identifying areas most suited to production of exportable farm products and provide all infrastructural facilities for production ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Government's policy is to promote export of farm products as such exports have low import intensity and these can help generate larger incomes and employment in the rural areas, while at the same time generating much needed foreign exchange for the country. The strategy for increasing the export of farm products includes a stable policy framework, conscious generation of surpluses for export, establishing backward linkages, providing incentives and assistance of various kinds to exporters, generating better packaging, improving quality control measures, simplyfying inspection and certification procedures, making credit available on more liberal basis, and improving other infrastructural support.

Some of the measures recently announced by the Government such as the enlarged REP Scheme, and the exchange rate adjustments are expected to give a boost to exports of our farm products.

[Translation]

Delegation to Kuwait to Procure Contracts for Construction Work

2364. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level delegation from India went to Kuwait to procure contracts for construction and renovation work and in the field of engineering; and

(b) if so, the details of the contracts finalised by the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Delegations from the Overseas Cnstruction Council of India (OCC,